

WELCOME!

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Formative Assessment for Montana Educators: Classroom Instruction

An Online Class Presented by the Office of Public Instruction Summer 2012
Judy Snow, State Assessment Director



Format

- Reading Assignments
 - Formative Assessment: Making It Happen in the Classroom by Margaret Heritage (Fame I)
 - Embedded Formative Assessment by D. Wiliam
 - Additional Readings (listed on the syllabus table)
- Online Learning Communities
 - Individuals or groups
 - Graduate credit—required on the timeline specified in the syllabus
 - Renewal units—optional, depending on number of units desired.



Important Information

- Attendance This will be recorded for CEU and graduate credit purposes.
- Assignments We will go over this in class on the first night and answer all of your questions.



Introductions

- As we will be spending important time together, please introduce yourself to the learning community....
- The facilitator will begin...



Objectives

- 1. Learn about the process of formative assessment.
- 2. Explore the theoretical and research base, which underpins formative assessment.
- 3. Gain an understanding of comprehensive assessment systems
- 4.Learn about the relationship between the use of assessment for formative and summative purposes



Assessment

- Coherent
- Comprehensive
- Continuous



Formative vs. Summative

What did we learn about formative assessment from our readings?

How do we describe formative versus summative assessment?



Professional Learning Communities

Reflection Question #1

1. How often do you use formative assessment in your classroom? How often do you use summative assessment?



Reflection Question #2

2. For what purposes do you use summative and formative assessment? Are these purposes the same as the ones described in the chapter?



Reflective Question #3

 Which areas that you have read about in this chapter would you like to develop further in your work?



- "Teachers need to know about their pupils' progress and difficulties with learning so that they can adapt their work to meet their needs—needs which are often unpredictable and which vary from one pupil to another. Teachers can find out what they need in a variety of ways — from observation and discussion in the classroom, and from written work of pupils whether done as homework or in class."
- What does this mean to you?



- There is evidence that improving formative assessment raises standards.
- There is room for improvement.
- There is evidence about how to improve formative assessment.



- "Feedback to any pupil should be about the particular qualities of his or her work, with advice on what he or she can do to improve, and should avoid comparisons with other pupils."
- How does this statement relate to our current assessment processes?



- "For formative assessment to be productive, pupils should be trained in self assessment so that they can understand the main purposes of their learning and thereby grasp what they need to do to achieve."
- Are your students skilled at self-assessment? How can you help?



- "Tests and homework exercises can be an invaluable guide to learning, but the exercises must be clear and relevant to learning aims.
 The feedback on them should give each pupil guidance on how to improve, and each must be given opportunity and help to work at the improvement."
- Do you agree with this statement?

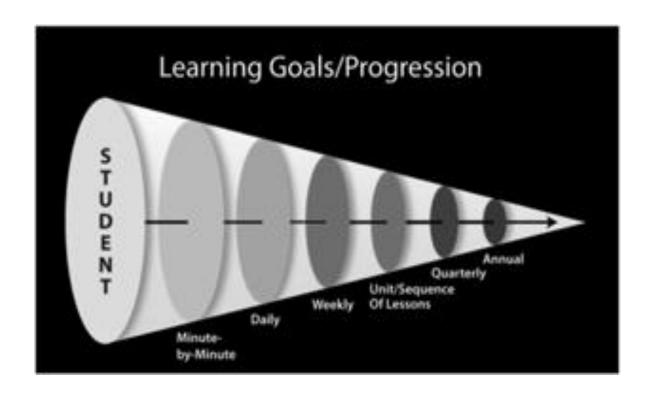


Why is an understanding of a comprehensive assessment system important?

How effective/helpful is the image of the cone (Margaret Heritage)?



Visualizing a Comprehensive Assessment System





10 Principles: Assessment *for* Learning... (p.3, ref. p.108)

- Is part of effective planning
- Focuses on how students learn
- Is central to classroom practice
- Is a key professional skill
- Is sensitive and constructive
- Fosters motivation
- Promotes understanding of goals and criteria
- Helps learners know how to improve
- Develops the capacity for self-assessment
- Recognizes all educational achievement

(ARG, 2002)



An Assessment Continuum (p.114)

	Informal Formative	Formal Formative	Informal Summative	Formal Summative
Major focus				
Purpose				
How is evidence collected?				
Basis of judgment				
Judged by				
Action taken				
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Discussion Questions

How can summative assessment be used to help learning? Does summative assessment have a role in formative assessment? Limitations?

How does formative assessment fit in the overall assessment system?



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Discussion Questions

How can formative assessment be used in summative assessment? Limitations?

About implementing formative assessment Harlan says: "What a teacher needs is not a prescribed lesson content but a set of strategies to deploy " To what degree is this so? What is being said about goals?



Assessment in your profession

- Tell us about the assessments you use in terms of how well these assessments serve formative or summative purposes.
- 2. How might your assessments be evaluated in light of the 10 principles of assessment for learning?
- 3. Which principles are in need of strengthening in your practice?



What's Next?

- Next week, read:
 - Read the chapters and articles assigned in the syllabus and be prepared to discuss them

Questions?



Thanks for your active participation!

 Please send additional comments, questions, or feedback to me at stevie@bresnan.net

